GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6227
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
OPENING OF NEW POST OFFICES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH
MAHESHWAR SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the laid down norms are relaxed for opening the branch post offices in the remote, hilly and border States like Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the norms/conditions which are relaxed;

(c) the number of branch post offices targeted to be opened and upgraded in Himachal Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether his target has been achieved;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of the target fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan in this regard and action plan formulated to achieve the said target?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SIKDAR)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The norms for opening the Branch Post Offices including the relaxed norms for remote and hilly areas are given in Annexure.

(c) to (e) A target of opening of 36 new Branch Post Offices in Himachal Pradesh was fixed for Ninth Five Year Plan and 20 new Branch Post Offices were opened. The opening and upgradation of Branch Post Offices was subject to the fulfillment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources.

(f) There is provision of fixing target for opening of new Post Offices in each year of Tenth Five Year Plan. Achieving of target is subject to the fulfillment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources.

Annexure

NORMS FOR OPENING POST OFFICES

1. Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:

1.1 Population:

(a) In Normal Areas:

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village)

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas :

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 Distance :

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated Income:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 331/3 % of the cost.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

2. Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices:

(a) In Rural Areas:

The minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.